CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	✓ Force	☑ Discourt.	☐ U.S.
Julian Phillips		Squad #9	201701446	✓ Abuse	O.L.	☐ Injury
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Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Friday, 02/17/2017 4:26 PM		In front of 1340 Sherid the 44 Precinct stationh		44	8/17/2018	8/17/2018
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	: Date/Tim	e Received at CCI	RB
Thu, 02/23/2017 3:15 PM		CCRB	Phone	Thu, 02/2	3/2017 3:15 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess			
Witness(es)		Home Addre	nce .			
Witness(es)		Home Addre	233			
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. POM Wilfredo Benitez	15506	947459	044 PCT			
2. SSA Kevin Grayson	02293	921393	044 PCT			
3. POM Marc Oconnor	31777	953191	044 PCT			
4. POM Carlos Morales	26314	922823	044 PCT			
Officer(s)	Allegati	on		Inv	estigator Recon	nmendation
A.POM Wilfredo Benitez		n front of 1340 Sheridan		ıx,		
	Detectiv	e Wilfredo Benitez stopp		§ 87(2)		
B.POM Marc Oconnor		n front of 1340 Sheridan fficer Marc Oconnor sto		ıx,		
				§ 87(2) (b)		
C.POM Wilfredo Benitez	Force: Ir	front of 1340 Sheridan	Avenue in the Bron	v		
C.I OW WINICOO DCINCZ		e Wilfredo Benitez point				
D DOM M. O	F 1	6 4 61240 61 11	A	D. II		
D.POM Marc Oconnor		n front of 1340 Sheridan Marc Oconnor pointed hi		x, Police		
E.POM Marc Oconnor		n front of 1340 Sheridan Marc Oconnor pointed hi		x, Police		
F.POM Wilfredo Benitez	Discourt	esy: In front of 1340 She	eridan Avenue in the	e Bronx,		
	Detectiv § 87(2)(b)	e Wilfredo Benitez spok	e discourteously to			
		and § 87(2)(b)				
G.SSA Kevin Grayson		esy: In front of 1340 She				
		Kevin Grayson spoke d	iscourteously to sort	and		
	§ 87(2)(b)					

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
H.POM Wilfredo Benitez	Off. Language: In front of 1340 Sheridan Avenue in the Bronx, Detective Wilfredo Benitez made remarks to based on immigration status.	
I.POM Marc Oconnor	Discourtesy: Inside the 44th Precinct stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Officer Marc Oconnor acted discourteously toward §87(2)(b)	
J.POM Wilfredo Benitez	Abuse: Inside the 44th Precinct stationhouse in the Bronx, Detective Wilfredo Benitez threatened to arrest	
K.POM Carlos Morales	Off. Language: Inside the 44th Precinct stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Officer Carlos Morales made remarks to \$87(2)(b) based upon race.	

Case Summary

On February 23, 2017, §87(2)(b) filed this complaint with the CCRB via telephone.

On February 17, 2017 at approximately 4:26 p.m., Sa7(2)(b)
and ser(2)(b) were eating in front of P.S. XO88, a public school
located at 1340 Sheridan Avenue in the Bronx. The four men were approached by Detective
Wilfredo Benitez (who at the time of this incident held the rank of Police Officer) and PO Marc
Oconnor followed closely by Sergeant Kevin Grayson, all of the 44 Precinct. Det. Benitez
ordered the four men not to move and to "get on the wall" (Allegations A and B). Det. Benitez
allegedly pointed his gun at §87(2)(b) and PO Oconnor allegedly pointed his gun at 87(2)
and (Allegations $C - E$). Det. Benitez allegedly ordered the men to "get on
the fucking floor," and Sgt. Grayson allegedly ordered the men to "get on the fucking ground"
(Allegations F and G). Det. Benitez allegedly said to service "you an immigrant. You
shouldn't even be here. You know who's President?" $\overline{\text{(Allegation H)}}$. The officers arrested the
four men and transported them to the 44 Precinct stationhouse. While preparing [87(2)(b)] to
be placed in a holding cell, PO Oconnor allegedly kicked solutions
(Allegation I). While the men were in the holding cell, Det. Benitez allegedly approached \$\frac{\\$}{57(2)}\$
and said, "every time I see you outside I'm gonna lock you up" (Allegation J). While
the men were in the holding cell, Police Officer Carlos Morales allegedly approached \$\frac{8}{37(2)}\$
and called him a "black shit" (Allegation K). § 87(2)(g). § 87(4-b)
. § 87(2)(b) and § 87(2)(b) were
charged with criminal trespass and transferred to Bronx Central Booking, server was charged
with criminal trespass and possession of marijuana and transferred to Bronx Central Booking, and
was charged with criminal trespass and released with a Desk Appearance
Ticket

There is no video footage of this incident.

Investigation of this case surpassed 90 days due to the number of victims and witnesses involved.

Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

- This case was deemed ineligible for mediation due to the arrests of \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)
- \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) have each filed a Notice of Claim against the New York City Police Department seeking an undisclosed amount in monetary damages for "police brutality, false arrest, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and violation of civil rights" (Board Review 01, Board Review 02).
- § 87(2)(b)

Page 2

§ 87(2)(b)	
§ 87(2)(b)	
§ 87(2)(b)	
Over the past ten years, § 87(2)(b)	has received no criminal convictions in New York City
(Board Review 06).	_

Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- This is the first CCRB complaint in which \$87(2)(b) or \$87(2)(b) was involved (Board Review 07, Board Review 08, Board Review 09, Board Review 10).
- Det. Benitez has been a member of the NYPD for eight years and has 12 prior CCRB allegations involving nine cases with no substantiated allegations (Board Review 11).
 - In case 201211813, Det. Benitez was alleged to have used the word "fuck" twice while speaking to a man who he was placing under arrest. This allegation was closed as unsubstantiated.
 - o In case 201305988, Det. Benitez was alleged to have used the word "fuck" once while speaking to a civilian who was filming Det. Benitez in the act of arresting a second civilian. This allegation was closed as unfounded.
 - In case 201309098, Det. Benitez was alleged to have used the word "fuck" once while speaking to a man who he was placing under arrest. This allegation was closed as complainant uncooperative.
 - In case 201501251, Det. Benitez was alleged to have used the word "fuck" three times
 while speaking to a man who he was placing under arrest. This allegation was closed as
 unsubstantiated.
- Sgt. Grayson has been a member of the NYPD for 18 years and has 13 prior CCRB allegations involving seven cases with no substantiated allegations (Board Review 12).

Page 3

- In case 201507510, Sgt. Grayson was alleged to have used the word "fuck" twice while speaking to a man who he was placing under arrest. This allegation was closed as unfounded.
- PO Marc Oconnor has been a member of the NYPD for four years and has two prior CCRB
 allegations involving two cases with no substantiated allegations. Neither of these allegations
 indicate a pattern relevant to this case (Board Review 13).
- PO Carlos Morales has been a member of the NYPD for 18 years and has five prior CCRB
 allegations involving five allegations with no substantiated allegations (Board Review 14).
 - In case 2007707836, PO Morales was alleged to have used the word "shit" twice while speaking to a man to whom he was issuing a summons. This allegation was closed as unsubstantiated.

Potential Issues

		rotentiai issues
•	In	his statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) identified a total of four men who were with him
	wh	en the group was approached by the officers: § 87(2)(b)
		and § 87(2)(b) Of these, § 87(2)(b) stated that all were stopped
	wit	th the exception of §87(2)(b) who Det. Benitez allegedly told to leave the scene. Only
	one	e of these men, §87(2)(b) was ultimately interviewed by the CCRB. The
	ren	naining witnesses and victims could not be interviewed for the following reasons:
	0	When contacted via telephone, \$87(2)(b) stated that he suffered from amnesia due to a
		recent seizure and was unable to recall this incident.
	0	The undersigned spoke to §87(2)(b) on three separate occasions and obtained two
		detailed telephone statements; however, §87(2)(b) failed to appear for three
		successively scheduled interviews without advance notice and was therefore deemed
		uncooperative with the investigation.
	0	None of the victims and witnesses contacted by the investigation was able to provide
		contact information for §87(2)(b) and database searches failed to yield a working
		telephone number for this individual. The undersigned sent multiple letters to several
		addresses associated with §87(2)(b) by database searches and police documentation
		requesting that he call the undersigned. However, \$87(2)(b) never contacted the CCRB

Findings and Recommendations

Explanation of Subject Officer Identification

to provide a statement.

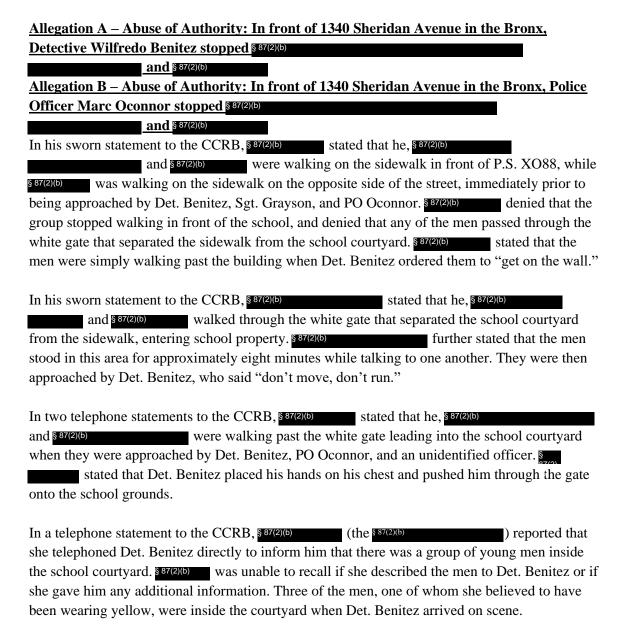
• In his statement to the CCRB, Det. Benitez stated that on the date of this incident he was partnered with Police Officer Corey Graves, rather than with PO Oconnor. Det. Benitez stated that, although he had previously worked with PO Oconnor, this officer had been transferred to Field Intelligence prior to February 17, 2017 and did not play any role in the apprehension and processing of \$87(2)(5)

Det. Benitez's own memo book from the date of the incident, as well as the 44

Page 4

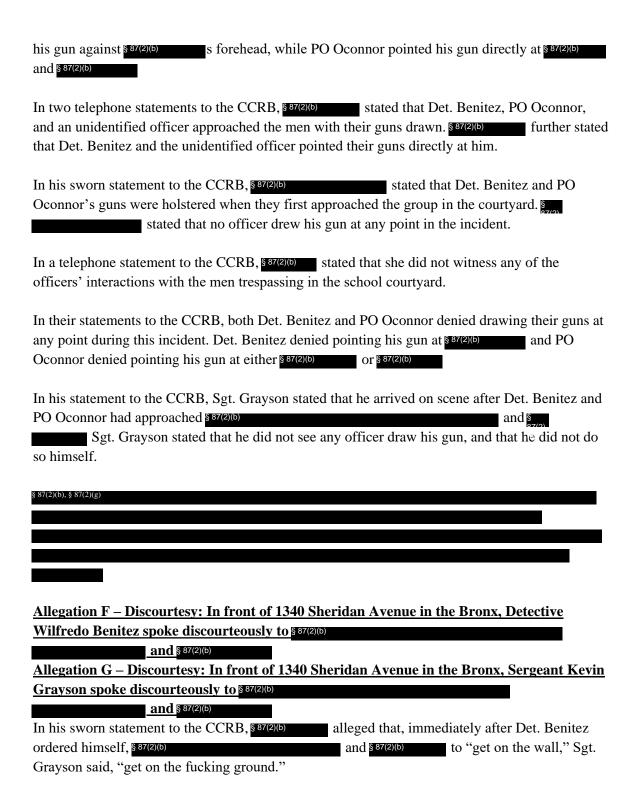
	Precinct Roll Call from the relevant tour, however, indicate that PO Oconnor was partnered with Det. Benitez on February 17, 2017 (Board Review 15, Board Review 16). In his sworn statement to the CCRB, PO Oconnor acknowledged assisting Det. Benitez in apprehending and \$87(2)(b) The investigation has
ΑT	therefore determined, despite Det. Benitez's statement, that PO Oconnor participated in this incident. Allegations A, C, F, H, and J are correspondingly pleaded against Det. Benitez, while allegations B, D, E, I, and L are pleaded against PO Oconnor. legations not pleaded
<u> </u>	Abuse of Authority: Frisk. In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(6) alleged that
	Det. Benitez and PO Oconnor conducted frisks of himself upon first approaching them. When asked about this allegation, Det. Benitez acknowledged frisking \$87(2)(b) while PO Oconnor stated that he did not recall whether he frisked anyone.
	. Therefore, this allegation is not being pleaded.
•	Abuse of Authority: Search. In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) alleged that
	Det. Benitez searched his pockets immediately after frisking him at the front of the school.
	further alleged that, at this time, Det. Benitez conducted a search of
	s pockets, and that PO Oconnor conducted additional searches of his own and
	s pockets. In his own sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) alleged
	that PO Oconnor searched his pockets at this time. § 87(2)(b). § 87(2)(g)
	Therefore, this allegation is not being pleaded.
•	Abuse of Authority: Strip Search. In his sworn statement to the CCRB, §87(2)(b) stated
	that PO Oconnor searched his person prior to placing him inside a holding cell inside the 44
	Precinct stationhouse. §87(2)(b) alleged that, during this search, PO Oconnor reached
	inside his pants and made contact skin-to-skin contact with \$87(2)(b) s genitals. Because
	did not alleged that he was disrobed during this search or that his
	undergarments were exposed, the investigation determined that this alleged search did not
	constitute a strip search. This allegation was forwarded to the NYPD's Internal Affairs
	Bureau as a spin-off for sexual misconduct under CCRB case number 201702065. Abuse of Authority: Property Demogra. In his statement to the CCPR SECTION.
•	Abuse of Authority: Property Damage. In his statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) stated that, while officers were preparing him to be placed in a holding cell at the 44 Precinct
	stationhouse, an officer (who the investigation determined to be Det. Benitez) cut the
	waistband string of his sweatpants. In his statement to the CCRB, Det. Benitez stated that it
	was necessary to cut this string to remove it from \$87(2)(b) swaistband, as department

policy does not permit civilians to bring strings into holding cells. As Det. Benitez's action conformed to NYPD Patrol Guide Procedure 210-08, which states that, prior to placing a detainee in a holding cell, "Belts, neckties, shoelaces, and clothing items such as jackets, overcoats, or other similar outer garments shall be removed and stored temporarily where they will not be accessible to the prisoner" (Board Review 17). Therefore, this allegation is not being pleaded.



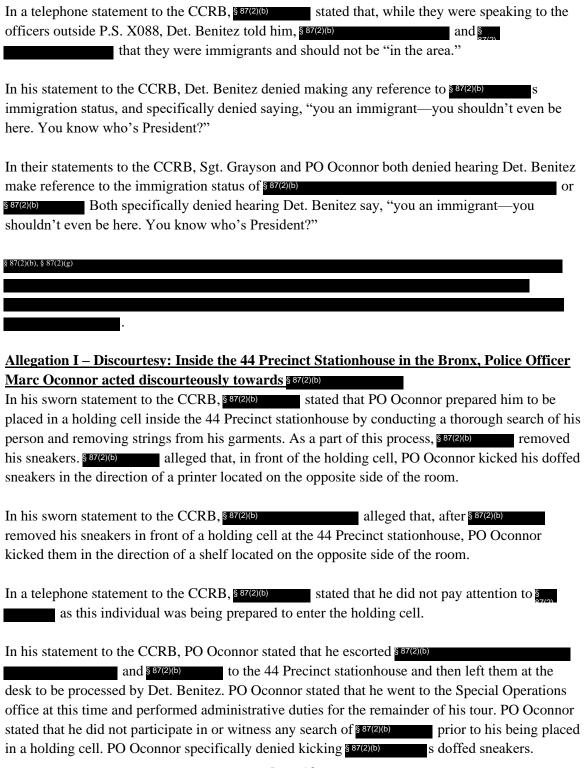
Page 6

In his statement to the CCRB, Det. Benitez stated that he received a call from \$87(2)(6) informing him that there were four male individuals trespassing in the school courtyard. At 4:21 p.m., Det. Benitez also received a text message from containing the message "there are three now" and a photograph of three male individuals. Det. Benitez showed this photograph to the undersigned during his interview, and the image clearly shows three male individuals, including one wearing a yellow hood and a second wearing a black sweatshirt and a white hat, standing inside the school courtyard. Det. Benitez further stated that, when he arrived on scene, \$87(2)(6) and \$87(2)(6) were standing in the same location as the
men who appeared in \$87(2)(b) s photograph. According to Det. Benitez, the men's presence in this area constituted a violation, and he immediately approached them and ordered them to show their hands.
PO Oconnor's statement was generally consistent with that provided by Det. Benitez. Sgt. Grayson stated that he was not present when Det. Benitez and PO Oconnor first approached the men, but that \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were inside the courtyard with the two officers when he approached.
New York State Penal Law 140.05 states that a person is guilty of Trespass when he "enters [remains] UNLAWFULLY in or upon premises when that person has no license or privilege to enter [remain] in or upon such premises" (Board Review 18).
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
Allegation C – Force: In front of 1340 Sheridan Avenue in the Bronx, Detective Wilfredo Benitez pointed his gun at \$87(2)(6)
Allegation D – Force: In front of 1340 Sheridan Avenue in the Bronx, Police Officer Marc
Oconnor pointed his gun at \$87(2)(b)
Allegation E – Force: In front of 1340 Sheridan Avenue in the Bronx, Police Officer Marc Oconnor pointed his gun at \$87(2)(6)
In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) alleged that Det. Benitez and PO Oconnor
immediately drew their guns upon approaching him, \$87(2)(b) and \$37(2)
further stated that Det. Benitez approached him and pressed the mouth of



Page 8

In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) alleged that Det. Benitez approached the men and said "don't move, don't run" and "get on the fucking floor." \$87(2)(b) further stated that no officer used profanity at any other time.
In two telephone statements to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) reported that Sgt. Grayson arrived on scene some minutes after Det. Benitez, PO Oconnor, and an unidentified officer apprehended himself, \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) reported that Sgt. Grayson said, "you motherfuckers going to jail." \$87(2)(b) could not recall whether any officer used profanity at any other time.
In his statement to the CCRB, Det. Benitez denied saying, "get on the fucking ground," or using any other profanity during this incident. Det. Benitez further stated that he did not hear Sgt. Grayson say, "get on the fucking floor" or use any other profanity during this incident.
In his statement to the CCRB, PO Oconnor stated that Det. Benitez did not say "get on the fucking ground" or use any other profanity when approaching \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ and \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ PO Oconnor further stated that Sgt. Grayson did not say "get on the fucking floor" or use any other profanity when approaching \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ and \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$
In his statement to the CCRB, Sgt. Grayson denied saying, "get on the fucking ground" or using any other profanity. Sgt. Grayson further stated that he did not hear Det. Benitez say "get on the fucking floor" or use any other profanity.
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
Allegation H – Offensive Language: In front of 1340 Sheridan Avenue in the Bronx, Detective Wilfredo Benitez made remarks to \$87(2)(b) based on immigration status. In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) stated that, after Det. Benitez handcuffed him, he asked why he was being arrested. \$87(2)(b) alleged that Det. Benitez replied, "you an immigrant—you shouldn't even be here. You know who's President?"
In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) stated that he could not recall whether any officer made any reference to the immigration status of himself, \$87(2)(b) at any time.



In his statement to the CCRB, Det. Benitez stated that he was the only officer who prepared to be placed in a holding cell at the 44 Precinct stationhouse. Det. Benitez further stated
that he could not recall whether PO Oconnor was present at the stationhouse at this time. Det. Benitez specifically denied kicking \$87(2)(5) states at the stationhouse at this time. Det. Benitez specifically denied kicking \$87(2)(5) states at the stationhouse at this time. Det. Benitez specifically denied kicking \$87(2)(5) states at the stationhouse at this time. Det. Benitez specifically denied kicking \$87(2)(5) states at the stationhouse at this time. Det. Benitez specifically denied kicking \$87(2)(5) states at the stationhouse at this time. Det.
In his statement to the CCRB, Sgt. Grayson stated that he observed both Det. Benitez and PO
Oconnor prepare \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) to be placed in a holding cell inside the 44 Precinct stationhouse. Sgt. Grayson stated that he did not see PO Oconnor kick the doffed shoes of any of these individuals.
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
Allegation J – Abuse of Authority: Inside the 44 Precinct Stationhouse in the Bronx,
Detective Wilfredo Benitez threatened to arrest § 87(2)(b)
In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) stated that, some hours after he, \$87(2)(b)
and \$87(2)(b) had been placed in a holding cell inside the 44 Precinct
stationhouse, Det. Benitez came to the cell to speak to them. §87(2)(b) stated that Det. Benitez
informed § 87(2)(b) that he would be released with a Desk Appearance Ticket.
alleged that, at this time, Det. Benitez told him, "every time I see you outside, I'm gonna lock you up."
In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$37(2)(b) stated that, some hours after he, \$37(2)(b) stated that, so the latter he had been dependent head that he had been depen
and § 87(2)(b) were placed in a holding cell inside the 44 Precinct stationhouse, an unidentified officer came to the holding cell and spoke to the men.
stated that the officer told the men that they would "always end up here"
and would not "make anything" of their lives. § 87(2)(6) stated that he could not
remember any other officer making remarks about any individual being arrested on a future date.
In a telephone statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) stated that PO Benitez and \$87(2)(b)
exchanged insults while \$87(2)(b) was inside a holding cell inside the 44 Precinct
stationhouse. \$87(2)(b) stated that he could recall what was said in any conversation between Det. Benitez and \$87(2)(b)
In his statement to the CCRB, Det. Benitez denied having any conversation with \$87(2)(b)
about the possibility of \$87(2)(b) being arrested in the future. Det. Benitez specifically denied telling \$87(2)(b) "every time I see you outside, I'm gonna lock you up."

In their statements to the CCRB, both Sgt. Grayson and PO Oconnor stated that they did not hear Det. Benitez have any conversation with about the possibility of him being arrested on a future date, and both specifically stated that they did not hear Det. Benitez say "every time I see you outside, I'm gonna lock you up."

§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
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Allogation V. Offensing Longuage, Inside the 44 Descinct Stationhouse in the Dunny Delic
Allegation K – Offensive Language: Inside the 44 Precinct Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and a remarks to \$87(2)(5) has also precinct Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx, Police Offensive Language and American Stationhouse in the Bronx Stationhouse and American Stationhou
OfficerCarlos Morales made remarks to Sar(2)(b) based on race. In his sworn statement to the CCRB, Sar(2)(b) stated that PO Morales spoke to Sar(2)(b)
and some hours after they were placed in the
precinct holding cell. § 87(2)(b) alleged that, during this conversation, PO Morales called § 87(2)
a "black shit."
In his sworn statement to the CCRB, \$87(2)(b) did not recall any officer using the
phrase "black shit" at any point.
6.07/0/4
In two telephone statements to the CCRB, §87(2)(b) stated that, between one and two hours
after \$87(2)(b) was released, PO Morales spoke to him, \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(c) and \$87(2)(c) and \$87(2)(c) and \$87(2)(c) are spoke to him, \$87(2)(c) and \$87(2)(c) are spoke to him, \$87(2)(c) are spo
while they were in a holding cell. §87(2)(6) stated that PO Morales called him a
"fucking pussy."
Det. Benitez, Sgt. Grayson, and PO Oconnor all stated that they did not see PO Morales interact
with \$87(2)(b) at any point, and all
stated that they did not hear PO Morales call §87(2)(b) a "black shit."
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)

Page 12

\$ 87(2)(g), \$ 87(4-0	9		
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Squad: 9			
Investigato	or: Signature	Print	
Squad Lea		Print	 _
Attorney:	Title/Signature	Print	